

**MINUTES OF MEETING
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COORDINATING COUNCIL
HELD
MARCH 29, 2010**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Frank E. Shelp, Department of Behavioral Health
Commissioner B. J. Walker, Department of Human Services
Commissioner Albert Murray, Department of Juvenile Justice
Commissioner Rhonda Medows, Department of Community Health
Arnold Smith, representing Commissioner Brian Owens,
Department of Corrections
William McDonald, ex-officio, Governor's Office
Diane Reeder, parent representative

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Renee Unterman, Member of Senate
Representative Katie Dempsey, Member of House
Stanley Jones, family member of a consumer
Julie Spores, consumer representative

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Frank E. Shelp, Chair of the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Council.

Dr. Shelp noted a correction to the date on the agenda to reflect March 29, 2010 not February 22, 2010. He also acknowledged that Dr. Rhonda Medows is leaving the Department of Community Health effective March 31, 2010 and wished her well in her new adventures.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 22, 2010

Motion was made by Diane Reeder and seconded by Commissioner Murray to approve the minutes of February 22, 2010. Minutes unanimously approved.

2010 LEGISLATION

Consuelo Campbell, Director of External Affairs for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities gave the following update on bills of interest to the Department.

SB 391 - This measure seeks to allow DBH to serve children and adolescents who are under Behavioral Health care for forensic services in a secured community based facility. The present state statute states that these individuals must be served only in our state mental health hospitals. This legislation has unanimously passed the Senate and moved to the House. Senator Renee Unterman, a member of the Coordinating Council is carrying the bill for the Department on the Senate side and Representative Mark Butler has agreed to carry it on the House side.

HB 228 - The Governor in his package has put together a cleanup bill to House Bill 228. House Bill 228 is the piece of legislation that dismantled the Department of Human Resources last year and created the Department of Human Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and moved the Division of Public Health to the Department of Community Health.

SB 375 and HB 1324 - These two companion bills are moving simultaneously. Senator Renee Unterman is the sponsor of SB 375 and Representative Mark Butler is the sponsor of HB 1324. Both bills have passed their respective Houses and have crossed over and are moving to the other side of the House.

Other bills of interest to the Department of Behavioral Health are:

HB1040 which is the Georgia Registered Nurse Practice Act. This Bill seeks to allow qualified paraprofessional level staff to be able to provide services to developmentally disabled individuals. At the present time there are some functions family members, registered nurses and physicians can do that paraprofessionals cannot perform.

Psychiatrist Advanced Directive Bill has died. Representative Pat Gardner has been working on this Bill for the last couple of years with no success.

SB 308 sponsored by Senator Mitch Seabaugh has passed the Senate and moved to the House. We had a victory in this bill in that we were able to have our psychiatrist hospitals added to the list of prohibited places where concealed weapons cannot be carried.

HB 615 sponsored by Representative Tim Bearden which is a companion bill to the Senate "*Concealed Weapons*" bill has died. Everything now is riding on SB 308.

2010 Legislative Guide was distributed to Council. Commissioner Rhonda Medows requested that the guide is sent to her electronically.

EXECUTIVE WORKGROUP

Cassandra Price met on March 9, 2010 with the Executive Workgroup which consisted of all agencies, including a representative from the Sheriff's Association, the United Way, as well as APS Healthcare. Cassandra Price was elected Chair and Bob Climko, APS will serve as Co-Chair. The purpose of the Executive Committee was discussed and the expectations of the Group from the Council. The Executive Workgroup will take any items of discussion from the Council and research and present the Council with follow-up information. The group discussed how to direct issues within the group. It was decided that they would be addressed directly to the commissioners of the agency affected. Pharmacy purchasing and practice was discussed in great length. It was decided that the Executive Workgroup will put together a comparative table that will detail what the purchasing practices are and how to keep track of the way drugs are dispensed. Most of responses are back and a report to the Council will be presented at the next meeting.

TANF STIMULUS - There is a project rolling out around transitional housing. Ms. Price stated that trying to use stimulus to fund housing due to clinical nature and the restrictive use of the funds and reporting requirements has been a challenge. Providers and contract department have met and the administrative piece of it is a little too heavy the Group. The Executive Workgroup would like to be included in any programs that would serve the population and the group would welcome being a part of the referral process.

Next step is to complete the comparative table on pharmacy and follow-up on any new assignments given by the Council today.

Dr. Shelp asked how much money is on the table for the TANF Stimulus. Commissioner Walker responded with "millions" and under the current rules must be used by September 30, 2010. There is something attached to the jobs bill that will extend it to September 2011. Dr. Shelp and Commissioner Walker will discuss in greater details at a later date.

Dr. Shelp suggested we give some thought in the next month or so to issues that overlap in anticipation of whatever the final budget looks like for FY10 and 11. Commissioner Medows suggested that we wait until after the budget is approved by the Governor.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Shelp reported on a meeting with SAMSHA which discussed electronic medical records for behavioral health. The fact that CMS is the overall guardian of this information but has yet to define the criteria, data sets and substance of what would go into a behavioral health electronic medical record. The result of the meeting was a series of phone conference calls that will take place to try to identify a similar group to begin looking reviewing. The timeline is so long that its not going to work for states. The need is now to move forward with this project. This is concerning because we need to have operability with physical medicine across different agencies. This is an area that is overlapping versus other agencies with the need to access health care information or to give. He will keep the Council apprised of the status of electronic medical records.

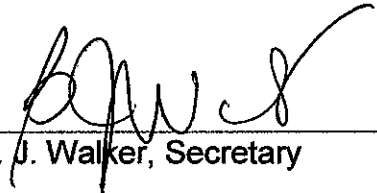
The Department of Behavioral Health is continuing its negotiations with the Department of Justice. He states that he feels optimistic by the Council's next meeting we will have come to a productive conclusion to the lawsuit.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting scheduled for May 12, 2010 at the office of Commissioner Albert Murray - Department of Juvenile Justice located at 3408 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032 at 11:00am.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Murray and seconded by Commissioner Medows.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.



B. J. Walker, Secretary

APPROVED:



Frank E. Shelp, Chair